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Kearsley Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Public Health Inspector

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Councillor N. A. TATLOCK

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor J. MARTIN, J.P., C.C.

Members :

Councillor R. CROWTHER
,, S. A. CHALONER
,, F. CUMMINGS
,, T. COOPER
,, T. FIELDING
,, W. HOLEHOUSE
,, J. HOLLINSHEAD
,, Mrs. E. HOWARTH
,, T. A. PILKINGTON
,, Mrs. B. E. TAYLOR, J.P.
,, W. TAYLOR
,, A. WARD
,, J. WALKER

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector F. BROOK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk Mrs. J. CROMPTON

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of the district, together with the Report of the Public Health Inspector, for the year 1958.

There has been little change in the death rate from last year, and deaths from heart disease in some form still account for some 30% of the total. Cancer accounted for 25 of the deaths; of these five were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. Vascular lesions of the nervous system, which includes cerebral haemorrhage, strokes, etc., also account for 25 deaths. The Birth Rate is just above average for the district, and it is pleasing to note the low Infantile Mortality rate of 12, remembering that in 1957 this was 59.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been few Infectious Diseases during the year. Measles was responsible for 83 cases and we can expect the end of 1960 and 1961 to bring the cyclic measles epidemic.

The last two years have shown a low incidence in Whooping Cough. It is too early to dogmatise on the results of immunisation but never have we had two years together with a comparable low incidence of Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria is no longer with us and Scarlet Fever is a mild disease of little import.

HOUSING.

In 1956 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved of the Council's Scheme for the demolition of 224 houses in five years in a Slum Clearance Programme. It should be noted here that the term "Slum Clearance" is the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's term to denote sub-standard property. Slums in the proper meaning of the word do not exist in the district. In this "Slum Clearance Programme" 121 houses have been demolished.

OLD PEOPLE.

There is an active Old People's Welfare Committee in Kearsley. There are three clubs for old people in the district, and meals on wheels and a chiropody service are well established. There is, however, still a need in the area for a hostel for the very feeble old people whose relatives are unable to, or will not, care for them.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Much of the nuisance of grit in the area has been eliminated by the new plant at the North Western Electricity Board's Power Station at Stoneclough. Pollution, however, is constant and the problem of pollution in the area must still be considered.

The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee have been encouraging and helpful in the work of the department and to them and the staff for their loyal co-operation I am grateful.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,
Medial Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area—1,728 statute acres (approx.).
Population—Estimated June, 1958—10,400.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Births :					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate					158	86	72
Illegitimate					8	3	5
Still Births :							
Legitimate					5	3	2
Illegitimate					—	—	—

	Kearsley	England & Wales	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	16.0	16.4	
Still Births per 1,000 total births ...	29.2	21.6	
	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	135	77	58

	Kearsley	England & Wales	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	15.2	11.7	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth		Nil	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :			

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	Nil	—	—

	Kearsley	England & Wales	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	12.0	22.5	

	Total			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1958

Diabetes	...	...	...	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	25
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	42
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3
Cancer	...	...	...	25
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	7
Motor Vehicles accidents	...	...	...	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	...	3
Total ...				135

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1958 :—

Disease	No.
Scarlet Fever	22
Whooping Cough	21
Dysentery	4
Erysipelas	2
Measles	83
Pneumonia (all forms)	11
Cases removed to Hospital from the district :—	
Scarlet Fever	6
Tuberculosis—Cases notified :—	
Respiratory	3

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING

During the year there were two cases of Food Poisoning reported.

SCARLET FEVER

Twenty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, and all but six of these were nursed at home.

DIPHTHERIA

For the twelfth year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk samples and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are four houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department and Irwell Valley Water Board :—

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water	100	45
Results	Satisfactory with treatment	Unsatisfactory without treatment
No. of chemical analyses	8	11
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Water going into supply where treatment is installed :—		
No. of bacteriological examinations	102	90
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
No. of chemical analyses	8	22
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination	Action not necessary	All water chlorinated
Liability to plumbo-solvent action	From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.	Yes
Analyses of plumbo-solvent action	—	90
Results	—	Mainly satisfactory Precautions— Water Lime-treated

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the local authority	...	...	...	27 Houses
(2) By other local authorities	...	...	...	—
(3) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	15 Houses

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	41
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		81
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being ren- dered fit :—		
(a) No. found during the year		1
(b) No. (or estimated No.) at end of year		79
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	...	40

2. Houses Demolished :—

In Clearance Areas :—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	29	100 38
(2) Houses included by bad arrangement, etc.	—	— —
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	—	— —
Not in Clearance Areas :—		
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	4	6 3

3. Unfit Houses Closed :—

Number

(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1), and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	4	13	4
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied :—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...	30	—
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	—	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(3) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—

5. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—

Improvement grants, etc.:—

Action during the year :—

	Schemes of Private Bodies or Individuals	Schemes of Local Authority
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	13	—
(b) No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	13	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—
(d) Work completed	6	—
(e) Any other action taken under the Act	—	—

6. Housing Conditions :—

Approximately 36 per cent. of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19 per cent. as medium and 45 per cent. as modern.

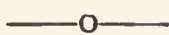
There are only a few families in lodgings who really need housing.

Particulars of any housing scheme—

(i) In hand at end of year:—

Nine houses still to be built.

Report of the Public Health Inspector



NOTICES

Twenty-one preliminary notices were served during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year :—

Privy middens	...	...	...	4
Ashbins	...	...	...	190,206
Pails	...	...	...	135
Total loads removed	...	...	...	2,832

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method continues to be most satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows :—

Fresh water closets	...	...	3,706
Waste water closets	...	...	49
Ashbins	...	...	3,880
Pails	...	...	5
Privy middens	...	...	1
Privy closets	...	...	1

SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage continues to be successful. During the year under review the combined weight of salvage collected was 211 tons 3 cwts., made up as follows :—

			T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	...	...	155	3	0
Kitchen Waste	...	...	28	11	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	27	8	2

The total value was £1,388.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with :—

Sewage Works.	Method of Treatment.
Clammerclough	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

The Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board is still working on the construction of new Trunk Sewers.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been inspected on 22 occasions, and their conditions were satisfactory.

During the year 19 samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for tubercle bacilli examination. The results of the examinations showed that all the samples were negative.

ICE CREAM

One shop was registered for the sale of ice cream. There are now 40 shops in the urban district registered for the sale of ice cream.

Sixteen samples of ice cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination, and the results were satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year, the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners :—

6 lbs. Ox Tongue.

8 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Sliced Boiled Ham.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

A total of fifty samples was obtained during the year, thirty-four being of milk and sixteen others comprising :—

- 3 Barley
- 1 Baking Powder
- 2 Baby Cream
- 1 Cheese
- 2 Seidlitz Powders (Extra Strong)
- 1 Coffee
- 2 Glycerin B.P.
- 1 Castor Oil B.P.
- 1 Dripping
- 1 Beef Sausage
- 1 Bread

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of two, details of which are given below :—

Type	Results of Analysis	Action Taken
Seidlitz Powders (Extra Strong) E.P.C.	Sample consisted of three powders. Contents of blue packets weighed 12.19, 12.27, and 12.16 gms. White packets weighed 6.48, 6.42, and 7.21 gm̄s. B.P.C. limits are 13.0—14.4 gms. for blue packets and 2.25—2.75 gms. for white packets.	Packers communi- cated with.
Glycerin B.P.	Contained 1.7% excess water.	Vendor communi- cated with.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES

During the year, forty-four visits were paid to factories and work-places, and fifty-one visits to Bakehouses.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

ERADICTION OF BED BUGS

There was one case of bed bugs found during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year.

The following action relating to rodent control, has also been carried out :—

	Type of Property		
	Non-agricultural Dwelling Houses	All Other	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in the district	3,491	575	11
(b) No. of properties inspected ...	1,361	272	11
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	2,700	483	33
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :			
Rats—major	—	—	—
Rats—minor	12	24	2
Mice—major	—	—	—
Mice—minor	44	7	1
(e) No. of infested properties treated	56	31	3
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)	56	31	3
(g) No. of 'Block' control schemes carried out	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1st January, 1958, to 31st December, 1958

Visits to Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits to Property Under Notice ...	...	...	...	...	...	350
Visits to Factories and Workplaces ...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Visits to Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Visits to Shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Visits to Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in Progress ...	...	...	...	...	...	271
Housing Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
General Visits—no nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	957
						1,850

